

From: Christopher Bare
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My suggestion is that Microsoft be required to open up its proprietary file and disk formats. Formats for MS-Office files, and the NTFS file system should be made public and freely usable. Future versions should be required to be backwards compatible. This would allow competing software to interact easily with Microsoft software. In spite of what Microsoft would probably claim this is NOT technically difficult.

Monopolies come about due to barriers to entry of competing products. A helpful remedy would be to reduce some of those barriers. We must reward those who provide useful products, and Microsoft has certainly done that. But, we should not lose sight of the fact that the ultimate purpose of our whole economic model is to provide maximum benefits to the participants.

Opening Microsoft file and disk formats would go a long way towards allowing competing products to exist in a Microsoft dominated world, which is an essential step in bringing about true competition.

Thank you,

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